

AN UNUSUAL SLATE ARTIFACT

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This artifact was found in the spring of 2010. I have never seen anything like it in other collections nor have I found anything similar to it in the literature.

When I found it it was covered with dirt and mud and I initially thought the groove in it was a flaw in manufacturing. The cen-

tral drilling and the side hole, which pierces both sides, produced a "T" shaped configuration.

Strangely, the groove in the side fits the index finger while the thumb fits the bottom hole. This led me to believe that it may have served as a whistle. The hole end has a plug

which has not been removed - the material may be cannel coal. If it served as a whistle or some other kind of sound emitting instrument, I have not had any luck trying to make it produce a sound.

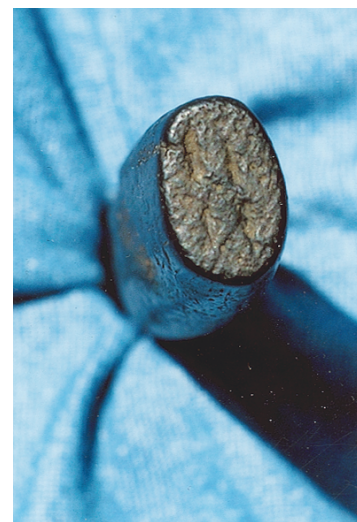
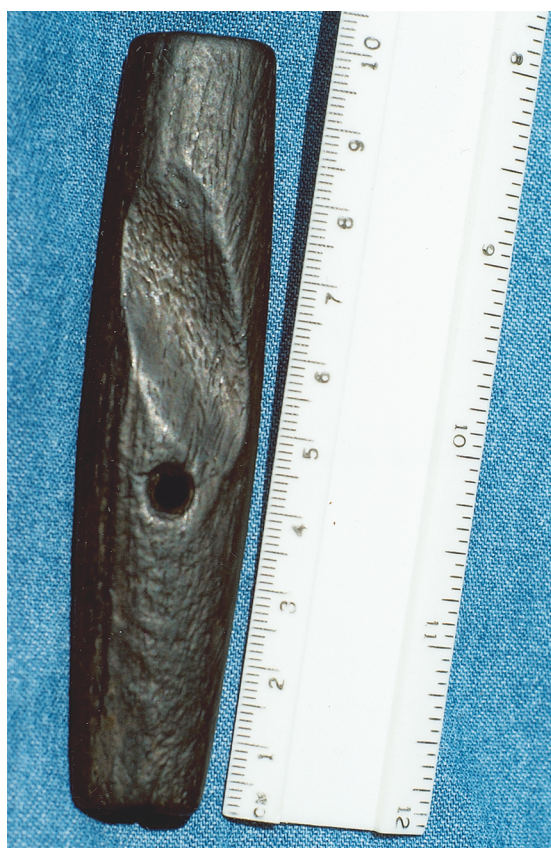


Figure 1 (Pliszka) Various views of strange slate artifact which may have been a whistle.